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Farm Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Public Affairs Radio-TV Division Washington D.C. 20250 (202) 720-4330

Letter No. 2560

May 29, 1992

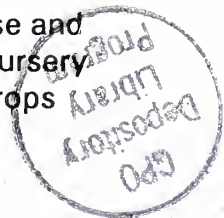
U.S. FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION is expected to rebound in 1992-93, USDA economists say. More acres planted and a return to more normal yields are expected to boost U.S. feed grain production by 14 percent to 249 million tons. The higher output will more than offset a 12 million ton decline in carryin stocks. Feed grain use in 1992-93 is projected to increase nearly 4 million tons to 236 million. Planting progress through May 17 was ahead of the previous 5-year average. **Contact: Tom Tice (202) 219-0840.**

SHEEP PRODUCERS DIVERSIFYING -- Sheep and cattle ranchers may have battled over grazing rights in the Old West, but these days they're finding that it pays to be a lot friendlier to each other. "Mixed grazing provides greater potential to increase livestock production in the Western States than sheep or beef cattle operations alone, says USDA economist **Hosein Shapouri**. According to a 1986 USDA survey, 66 percent of sheep producers also raise cattle. Moreover, 33 percent of sheep producers grow crops and 19 percent raise livestock other than sheep or cattle. **Contact: Hosein Shapouri (202) 219-1285.**

SEX AND FUNGI FOIL PEST -- Fungi and sexual trickery kept root-destroying soybean cyst nematodes from showing up for dinner in a new control scheme being patented by USDA scientists. "Compounds that mimic the female nematode's sex attractant, or pheromone, confuse the male so he can't find a female," says plant pathologist **Susan L.F. Meyer**. "And if they do mate, the fungus destroys many of the eggs." As a result, there were 86 percent fewer pests in some outdoor plots last summer. USDA scientists are now beginning more tests in Delaware and Maryland on larger plots. **Contact: Susan L.F. Meyer (301) 504-5660.**

GREENHOUSE AND NURSERY SECTOR BLOSSOMING -- Americans spend almost as much for flowers and plants as they do for fresh produce, says USDA economist **Doyle Johnson**. In 1990, Americans spent \$150 per person on greenhouse and nursery products and about \$196 per person on fresh produce. Johnson expects greenhouse and nursery expenditures to keep rising in 1992 to \$172 per person. Greenhouse and nursery crops accounted for 10 percent of farm crop cash receipts -- ahead of such major crops as wheat and cotton, Johnson says. **Contact: Doyle Johnson (202) 219-0884.**

HOW TO GET INFO -- The latest edition of "How to Get Information from the United States Department of Agriculture" is still available. In addition to frequently used USDA phone numbers, it includes phone numbers for USDA public affairs and agency info offices. For a copy, contact: **Marci Hilt (202) 720-6445. Media only, please.**



NEWSLINE ON FAX -- USDA Radio's Newsline has joined the **Farm Broadcasters Letter** on USDA's Ag NewsFAX. Each day items on the Newsline will be available by 5:30 p.m., Eastern time. The four-digit number needed to retrieve it will always be the same: 9250. To receive the **Newsline** from Ag NewsFAX, use the telephone connected to your FAX machine to call (202) 690-3944. Then, press 1 4 9250 # 3 on the telephone and the start button your FAX machine. The **Farm Broadcasters Letter** continues to be available on the Ag NewsFAX each Thursday by 2 p.m., Eastern time. If you encounter a problem, call Diane O'Connor (202) 720-2168.

AQUACULTURE IS U.S. AG'S LATEST SUCCESS STORY -- The U.S. aquaculture industry is laying the groundwork for future growth, says USDA economist **David Harvey**. Aquaculture's potential is just being tapped, Harvey says. Over the past two decades, U.S. producers have taken to aquaculture production and have been quite successful, making it a major force in some parts of the domestic market. Even though 90 percent of the fish consumed is caught in the wild, the harvest of wild-catch is approaching its full potential, so aquaculture producers will need to fill future demand. **Contact: David Harvey (202) 219-0888.**

MADIGAN APPOINTS MEDERO -- Secretary of Agriculture **Edward Madigan** has appointed **Frederick R. Medero** as associate administrator of USDA's Farmers Home Administration. Medero most recently was managing director for The International Environmental Investment Fund after serving as vice president for asset finance at the investment banking firm of Kidder, Peabody & Co., Inc. Medero is a native of New York and a graduate of St. John's University Law School and New York University Graduate Law School. **Contact: Dallas Sweezy (202) 720-4323.**

USDA RADAR HELPS PRESERVE INDIAN BURIAL SITE -- Soil scientists and conservationists wanted to prevent a 2,000-year-old American Indian burial ground in Vermont from eroding into a river. However, they didn't know how far the boundaries extended and they didn't want to dig because that would disturb the site. A USDA ground-penetrating radar system -- a device housed in a wooden "sled" pulled along the ground by truck -- solved the problem. As a result, USDA conservationists worked with Vermont officials to alter the design of the streambank stabilization project to minimize disturbances of the ancient burial ground. **Contact: Anne Dudas (802) 951-5795.**

WHEAT SUPPLIES -- USDA economists say total U.S. wheat supplies in 1992-93 will be 2.73 billion bushels -- the lowest since 1975-76. While the 1992 wheat crop, projected at 2.27 billion bushels, is projected up 14.5 percent, much lower forecast carryin stocks will more than offset increased production. U.S. wheat production in 1992 is led by a projected 18 percent rise in winter wheat. **Contact: Ed Allen (202) 219-0840.**

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FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1825 -- Consumer-ready foods are rapidly closing in on bulk farm commodities as the leader in the world export market. **Doug Wakefield** reports on some of the new winners in agricultural exporting. (Weekly reel -- 13-1/2 minute documentary.)

CONSUMER TIME #1307 -- Keeping farmland in local hands; biotech foods; food safety before the cookout; grilling foods safely; new program to control food poisoning bacteria in eggs. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features.)

AGRITAPE NEWS & FEATURES #1816 -- USDA News Highlights; more help for disabled farmers; the changing face of ag exports; no silver bullets for whitefly control; measuring fertilizer needs. (Weekly reel of news features.)

NEWS FEATURE FIVE #1522 -- High-tech beehive; boosting honey production; bee breeding tool; the buzz about pollination; good news about herbicides. (Weekly reel of research feature stories.)

UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Fri., June 5, dairy product output; Mon., June 8, vegetable production; Tues., June 9, crop/weather update; Wed., June 10, U.S. crop production, world ag supply and demand; Thurs., June 11, U.S. tobacco outlook, world ag and grain situation, world oilseed situation, world cotton situation; Fri., June 12, farm labor. (These are the USDA reports we know about in advance. Our Newsline carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup. Please don't let the lack of a story listing keep you from calling.)

DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.

Material changed at 5 p.m., EDT, each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE

FEATURES -- DeBoria Janifer reports on rural development councils; **Pat O'Leary** takes a look at "Turkey Lovers Month;" **Lynn Wyvill** reports on food safety and power failures.

ACTUALITIES -- USDA meteorologist **Norton Strommen** on weather and crops; **Allan West**, with USDA's Forest Service, on forest fire season; USDA economist **Steve MacDonald** on U.S. exports.

UPCOMING FEATURES -- DeBoria Janifer reports on wheat outlook; **Pat O'Leary** reports on USDA's Osaka Trade Office in Japan; **Lynn Wyvill** reports on livestock and poultry outlook.

EVERY OTHER WEEK -- Agriculture Update, five minutes of USDA farm program information in "news desk" format with B-roll.

Available on Satellite Galaxy 6, transponder or channel 23, audio 6.2 or 6.8, downlink frequency 4160 MHz.: Thursdays from 7:30 - 7:45 p.m., EDT, Saturdays from 10 - 10:45 a.m., EDT, and Mondays from 8 - 8:45 a.m., EDT.

OFFMIKE

OVERALL IMPRESSION...after a ten-day visit in May to farms in Russia and the Ukraine is the impact of what the lack of incentive does to efficiency, says **Lynn Ketelsen** (Linder Farm Network, Willmar, Minn.). Lynn says there is a stark contrast between private and state farms. The private farms he saw were spotless, the machinery in working order and people had pride in their work. Farmers starting out as private operators are pioneers in a region that is largely third world, 40 years behind. Lynn says their determination to rebuild agriculture was a moving experience.

FARM PROGRESS SHOW...is scheduled for Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 in Columbus, Ind. **Gary Truitt** (AgriAmerica Network, Indianapolis, Ind.) is making plans to cover the events. A series of special updates on harvest activities, weather and traffic conditions will help those attending the outdoor show. Gary says the network opened the planting season with a week-long series of reports on farm safety. Among the issues cited in the series were the hazards confronting farmers at planting time and the pressure of long hours that create fatigue and can lead to accidents.

Farm Broadcasters Letter



Office of Public Affairs
Radio-TV Division
U.S. Department of Agriculture
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HIGH WINDS...in the northern plains have caused some sugar beet producers to replant, says **Chris Blaine** (KNOX, Grand Forks, N.D.). Chris has aired reports of producers replanting 1,000 acres that had seed blown from the dry ground.

THANKS...for the feedback from **George Gatley** (Western Agri-Radio Networks, Yuma, Ariz.) regarding his use of USDA radio features and documentaries offered in our weekly cassette service.

CONGRATULATIONS...to **Gary Crawford** (USDA Radio) and his wife **Debra Taylor**. They were married May 16. ...and to **Johnnie Hood** (WPTF/Southern Farm Network, Raleigh, N.C.) and **Peggy Esten**. Their wedding date is June 19.

VIC POWELL
Chief, Radio and TV Division